



News from **SALEM COUNTY**

Office of Public Information

Mr. Robin B. Weinstein, Public Information Officer
Office Phone: (856) 935-7510 ext. 8202
After Hours: (856) 297-5433

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STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE ROBOT FOR FREEHOLDER BOARD

(SALEM, NJ) –The South Jersey Robotics Inc. Team 316, known as the LuNaTeCs, presented a demonstration of their award-winning robot, S.A.M., to the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders at the regular freeholder meeting on June 22.

“The students demonstrated teamwork, analytical skills and problem-solving challenges,” said Freeholder Julie Acton, chair of the Public Services Committee. “We are very proud of everyone who participated in the project.”

The team of students, mentors, and parents from across Salem County attended the demonstration. Their robot named S.A.M. (Salem’s Awesome Machine) competed in the yearly FIRST Robotics Competitions. The team won 2nd place in the regional competition in Philadelphia in April and advanced to the international competition in St. Louis the following month where they faced teams from 60 countries.

“Students who participate in the program not only build skills and win recognition,” said Freeholder Acton, “they also become eligible to apply for scholarship money at 150 schools.”

The LuNaTeCs team, started in 1999, involves high school students, educators and businesses. The students come from high schools throughout the county and are sponsored by PSEG, DuPont, KBR, and Boeing. The team, which meets at Salem Community College, is annually challenged to design, build and deploy a machine to carry out specific tasks. The LuNaTeCs is one of the smaller teams in FIRST program with 10-15 students. The team’s small size allows each member to play an integral part in the robot’s design, manufacture and operation.

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) was founded over 20 years ago by inventor Dean Kamen to encourage young people to discover and develop a passion for science, engineering, technology, and math. This year the program involved over 210,000 students and 90,000 mentors from 60 countries.

“Inspiring our children to prepare for the future through your organization is commendable and we congratulate the students, mentors, parents, educators and the business partners for investing in these life changing experiences,” concluded Committee Member Freeholder Beth Timberman.

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Front row: Gain O’Connell, Penns Grove Engineering Academy, Shannon Kirk, Salem County Vocational/Technical School. Middle row: Freeholder Julie Acton, Samantha Kirk, alumna, now attending Tulane University, Freeholder Beth Timberman. Back row: Freeholder Director Lee Ware, Freeholder Ben Laury, Freeholder Dale Cross, Domenic Rodriquez, home school student, Scott George, PolyOne mentor, Jakob Davenport, Penns Grove Engineering Academy, Josh Brosvic, home school student, Freeholder Bruce Bobbitt, and Freeholder David Lindenmuth.